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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, September 12, 1985 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended September 7 totaled an estimated 14.7 billion ton-miles, 10.5 percent below the corresponding week of 1984, the Association of American Railroads reported today. Both weeks included the Labor Day Holdiay.

Cumulative volume for the first 36 weeks of 1985 was an estimated 610.1 billion ton-miles, down 5.2 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended September 7 totaled 330,715, down 9.6 percent from last year, and 15.5 percent lower than the preceding non-holiday week. Compared with last year, loadings were down 7.9 percent in the East, 10.6 percent in the South and 10.2 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 15 of the 21 major commodity groups decreased. Coal loadings were down by 12,098 cars (10.3 percent) and grain traffic showed a decline of 11,333 cars (41.9 percent). Motor vehicles and equipment loadings were up by 2,147 cars (13.6 percent). All of the 21 commodity groups declined from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended August 31 totaled 97,925 trailers and/or containers, 5.7 percent above the corresponding week of 1984.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 35 weeks of the year was 2,988,639 trailers and/or containers, down 2.3 percent from 1984.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 9/7/85:

	Loadings in Week ended September 7, 1985		Change from Corresponding Week 1984			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	15,718	D	11,333	41.9	D	5,283	25.2
Other farm products	2,201	D	359	14.0	D	321	12.7
Metallic ores	9,711	D	6,364	39.6	D	3,494	26.5
Coal	105,334	D	12,098	10.3	D	12,235	10.4
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	11,595	I	466	4.2	D	2,218	16.1
Nonmetallic minerals	10,040	D	2,243	18.3	D	631	5.9
Grain mill products	8,723	D	252	2.8	D	1,981	18.5
Food and kindred products	9,521	I	19	0.2	D	1,900	16.6
Primary forest products	8,965	D	2,663	22.9	D	1,770	16.5
Lumber and wood products except furniture	5,436	I	11	0.2	D	1,984	26.7
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,445	D	1,156	8.5	D	1,499	10.8
Chemicals and allied products	21,449	D	1,706	7.4	D	3,505	14.0
Petroleum products	4,227	D	153	3.5	D	596	12.4
Stone, clay and glass products	9,605	D	756	7.3	D	1,410	12.8
Coke	4,542	D	91	2.0	D	767	14.4
Metals and products	7,368	I	462	6.7	D	2,031	21.6
Motor vehicles and equipment	17,877	I	2,147	13.6	D	4,502	20.1
Waste and scrap materials	7,063	D	265	3.6	D	2,111	23.0
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	5,833	D	612	9.5	D	1,365	19.0
All other carloads	52,948	I	1,697	3.3	D	11,172	17.4
LCL traffic	114	D	54	32.1	D	72	38.7
Total Cars Loaded	330,715	D	35,303	9.6	D	60,847	15.5
Corresponding week of 1984	336,018						

	1985	1984	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (36 weeks)	13,402,673	14,236,466	D 5.9
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
35 Weeks ended August 31	595.4	626.9	D 5.0
Week ended September 7	14.7	16.4	D 10.5
36 weeks cumulative	610.1	643.2	D 5.2

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